(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government would carry this responsibility in a proper way;

(d) whether Government would consider to seek cooperation from private sector and local bodies in cleaning and conservation of rivers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a Centrally sponsored Scheme administered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests presently covers pollution abatement works in 35 rivers spread over 164 towns in 20 States of the country.

The State Government play a pivotal role in the pollution abatement/control measures. The pollution abatement works under NRCP are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments for the purpose. Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to create proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing one time grant for capital works for identified polluted stretches of rivers.

(d) and (e) River Conservation Programme is a mammoth task and needs cooperation of all stakeholders like State Governmetns, Local Bodies, public at large etc. The State Governments/Local Bodies are encouraged to fulfil their responsibilities towards Operation and Maintenance (O & M) of assets created by generating additional revenue through innovative measures like leavying of user charges, sale of sludge and through institutional mechanism under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to augment resources. Besides the above, cooperation of NGOs, schools, private sector and the general public are also tapped in the Public Participation and Awareness campaigns for conservation of rivers.

Comprehensive Survey of Ganga

1822. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive survey of the Ganga was done after John Andersons' Survey conducted in 1879;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the receding Gangotri glacier and sewage flowing in from cities will further worsen the already alarming position of Ganga and similarly-placed other rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Scientific surveys and independent studies are conducted on river Ganga from time to time by various agencies, independent institutions, researchers, environmentalists etc. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) conducted a comprehensive survey on pollution of Ganga basin in 1984 on the basis of which the Government launched the Ganga Action Plan in 1985.

(c) Recession of glaciers of Himalayan region is part of a world-wise phenomenon and can not be prevented on a large scale in view of the nature of Indian Himalayan glaciers being debris covered, the economic feasibility, the scale of operation and the likelihood of pollution. Due to enhanced melting of ice, consequent upon faster recession, the run-off of the Himalayan Rivers may increase marginally.

Pollution abatement measures like interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the rivers for treatment, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, Electric/improved wood crematoria, River Front Development etc. are implemented under Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in the polluted stretches identified by CPCB. So far a sewage treatment capacity of 1747 million litres per day has been created under both the phases of Ganga Action Plan which includes the sewage treatment capacity for its tributaries. With the pollution abatement works completed so far under GAP Phase-I & II, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. At present the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan covers 164 towns alongs polluted stretches of 35 identified rivers spread over 20 States in the country for abatement of pollution.

Advise of environment agencies for rich class

†1823. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the environment agencies working within the country have expressed their concern over pollution being spread by the rich class of people;

(b) whether the agencies have advised to prefer travel by train as against aeroplanes;

(c) whether imposition of tax on rich people has also been advised; and

(d) Government's policy with regard to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A report by the Greenpeace India (GPI) based on the survey of some households appears to have mentioned about carbon emissions by various income classes in the country particularly with respect to persons in the higher and lower income classes. The report however has not undergone any peer review so far.

Various Government initiatives have already been taken by the imperatives of sustainable development in the country, which have led to the decline in the intensity of energy use and carbon dioxide emissions.

Relocation of people from tiger reserves

1824. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and his Ministry are in the process of formulating guidelines and packages for the relocation of people from tiger reserves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken for initiating the process

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.